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Friday, October 2, 2020

Sturbridge celebrates Arbor Day

STURBRIDGE — As with many events of 2020 due to Covid-19, celebrating Arbor Day was also delayed, normally celebrated on the last Friday in April, this year Arbor Day was celebrated in summer. This year, eight trees were adopted by Sturbridge families, along with the traditional Arbor Day celebration tree planting.

Sturbridge Tree Warden, Tony Crane organized and managed the 31st consecutive Arbor Day ceremony for Sturbridge, taking over from long time, now retired, Tree Warden Tom Chamberland.

"Tom has been a great asset to the town, and his legacy of 30 consecutive Arbor Day ceremonies was one program I had to continue. His help and guidance were invaluable," said Tony Crane, continuing, "Arbor Day was delayed this year due to considerations from Covid-19,"



Courtesy

Sturbridge's Arbor Day was recently held at the 10 Old Sturbridge Village Trail Head parking lot. From left to right: Landscape Evolution crew member, Tom Chamberland (watering tree) and Tony Crane, Sturbridge Tree Warden.

Animals, smiles, family trees, Yoga and more happening at Hitchcock Academy

BRIMFIELD — Do you know the difference between a turtle and a tortoise? Do all rats have hair? What's a degu? Hitchcock Academy in partnership with Athens Pizza will be presenting Animal Adventures on Oct. 12, a special program that features controlled interaction with animals, which may answer these questions and more. Animal Adventures is just one of the programs Hitchcock Academy has added to its calendar this fall.

For nearly 25 years, Animal Adventures has traveled throughout the northeast with menageries that may include an alligator, large snake, small snake, chinchilla, ferret, guinea pig, hedgehog, rat, hairless rat, degu, rabbit, large lizard, small lizard, tortoise, turtle and frog. Hitchcock Academy's executive director, Cindy Skowyra

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The pumpkins have arrived!

STURBRIDGE — The Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale celebrated the opening day of its 2020 Pumpkin Patch this past Saturday.

"This was a highly successful opening with tremendous support from the community in unloading and setting up the pumpkins, and lots of interest and support from opening day customers," according to this year's committee chair, Jim Mansfield. "We sold 80 pumpkins on our first official day of sales!"

This annual church fundraiser, now in its third year, benefits church missions



Courtesy

Church volunteers Mark Fancy, Susan Schwartz, and Kerstin Comtois helped set up the gourd display.

Apples, oxen, and Autumn harvest activities in store at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE — Visitors are in for a whole host of fun activities when they visit Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) this fall, with four themed weekends celebrating apples, farming trade and the autumn harvest. With a working farm and an ox-powered Cider Mill on-site, guests to OSV will get a firsthand look at the process of bringing food in from field-to-table and harvesting practices of the early 19th century.

"The positive numbers of visitors to the Village over the past few months has assured us that families are excited to create memories and experience the great outdoors," says Jim Donahue, President & CEO of Old Sturbridge Village. "With these fall programs and activities, we are working every day to ensure that we provide fun and enriching opportunities in a safe and comforting environment for all ages."

Apple Outings: Sept. 26-27 and Oct. 3-4

One of the most popular items of the fall harvest is apples, but varieties were different in the 19th-century from what we commonly see today. Guests can learn about the "winter banana," "granniwinkle," "hagloe crab," and "blue permain" apples, among others, and witness the process of squeezing apples into cider - a more robust and fermented drink than the sweet cider we think of today. Throughout the day during Apple Outings weekends, OSV interpreters will



be cooking and preserving apples from the harvest and operating the ox-powered Cider Mill.

Oxen, Fields, and Farmers: October 10-12

Guest oxen will be visiting the Village during the holiday weekend, available for meet and greets. Visitors can learn about plowing and field preparation while at OSV, and meet the Village's other animals - sheep, cattle, pigs, and chickens who live on-site. Tradesmen will be working throughout the weekend

in the blacksmith shop, potters' shop and more, and the horse-drawn wagon will be running to take visitors around the scenic campus to see the gorgeous fall foliage.

Autumn Harvest Weekend: Oct. 17-18

In the last of the Village's themed fall weekends, visitors are invited to celebrate the autumn harvest! Costumed interpreters will be busy at work preserving the harvest, prepping apples, potatoes, carrots, beets and more for

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and a number of local charities, in addition to the Navajo Indian Reservation in Farmington, NM. In cooperation with the Navajo Nation, the church's pumpkin supplier, Pumpkins USA grows 1,200 acres, or approximately two square miles of pumpkins and employs over 700 Native Americans during harvest months of September and October. They also have a full time off-season NM staff that is composed entirely of Native Americans. This has a positive and lasting impact on a region with 42 percent unemployment.

The sale of pumpkins and gourds continues daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (weather-permitting) through Oct. 30 on the front lawn of the church at 8 Maple St., Sturbridge (in between Sturbridge Town Hall and the Joshua Hyde Public Library). Shoppers are asked to please wear a mask and practice social distancing!



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TCA students get a virtual visit from astronauts

SOUTHBIDGE—Last week through Galactic Unite Community Outreach Organization, TCA students in grades 5-8 had a personal Zoom Space Chat with Galactic Unite of Virgin Galactic!

Did you ever want to talk to an astronaut? Well, these students had two astronauts and a space engineer all to themselves on Sept. 18 to ask them whatever questions they wanted! How cool is that? TCA students must have thought it awesome! There were no less than 28 questions from some highly stimulated students who directed their personal questions to the Galactic team. These students wanted to know everything about what it was like to go in space; from how astronauts sleep in space, to how to become an astronaut. Galactic Unite Team recommended math and engineering classes and even JR. Legos for those interested early on. By the way, astronaut use Velcro to keep themselves and space travelers in their beds, so they do not end up “sleep floating.”

To build the anticipations for this unique experience, stem activities and videos to review were shared by Galactic Unite leading up to the personal zoom meeting for grades 5-8 at TCA. The event was held in the Trinity Gym, all students were strategically spaced keeping with covid regulations.



Virgin Galactic is owned by Sir Richard Francis, owner of Virgin Atlantic Airline and much more. This is a private company that is offering space travel for all of us. There are currently more people with reservations to go in space as passengers than have ever been in space in our lifetime!

Spacechats are virtual field trips, providing online interactive experiences and bringing ‘space’ directly into the classroom. Coordinated by Future Astronaut Ron Rosano, these virtual experiences create an opportunity for their team and Future Astronauts to communicate directly with students – encouraging them to follow their dreams and focus their efforts on things that they love doing.

TCA space chat was with Astronaut Ron Rosano is Galactic Unite Community Outreach and NASA

Solar System Ambassador, along with Future Astronaut, James Ehrhart and Avionics & Electrical Operations Engineer, Emilie Woog who prepares spaceships for flights accordingly. Virgin Galactic anticipates colonies on the moon by around 2024 and Mars by 2030. How about a “getaway” to a Space Hotel to relieve your stress? This is our future! Each passenger cost is currently \$1 million. Save up for your dream vacation!

Thanks to Sixth grade teacher, Heidi Weber, who stimulated the event and grade 5-8 teachers who helped carry it to fruition.



ACCURACY WATCH

The Sturbridge Villager is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress. news during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

QCC offers innovative professional development training

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College’s Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education (CWDCE) has launched an innovative way to deliver professional development training with a new, “all you can learn” subscription model. The CWDCE performed extensive research to discover the best way to respond to the needs of both employers and individuals working in today’s digital age.

QCC’s subscription-style model of learning contains more than 500 unique online modules in 14 different areas of Advanced Manufacturing, as well as Microsoft 365 online software services suite. Participants can choose between 30, 60, 90, 180 or 365 days of unlimited access to all the training modules for a set rate. Since the pandemic began, companies have had to adopt more online practices into their current workplace practices to remain viable.

“We looked at a number of trends both locally and nationally, which resulted in some new course offerings for the fall, as well as new ways we will be offering our courses. One of the most innovative ways we have responded to the need to for workers to quickly ‘skill up,’ is by offering this type of learning model,” said Dean of the Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Kathleen Manning.

Students can mix and match between all modules to target their individual skill needs. Each module takes approximately one hour to complete and includes a pre and post assessment. Students can print out a certificate when the module is completed.

“We are moving away from the one-size-fits-all approach and are allowing individuals to design a custom program that is best suited to their individual career goals,” Ms. Manning said. “This is a smarter approach in delivering professional development training to our workforce of the future.”

QCC offered free business courses to help with online transition at the start of the pandemic, as well as a free infectious disease control course to assist companies in navigating the new workplace landscape.

“Now with these ‘all you can learn’ programs, there is another safe and effective way to learn new skills or increase existing skillsets,” Ms. Manning continued. “Adapting to the needs of our changing world is paramount to the economic prosperity of our nation.”

To learn more visit, <https://www.QCC.edu/center-workforce-development-and-continuing-education>

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

Happy 50th Anniversary!

Rick & Julie Mammay
October 3, 1970

If you see this cute couple around town, please say “Happy 50th Anniversary!”

Town Of Brimfield –Town Job Posting PLANNING BOARD CLERK

This position requires the successful application to be responsible for the following:

- Attend a minimum of one evening meeting monthly
- Record, deliver, and post agendas and minutes of all meetings in timely manner
- Post and mail legal notices for meetings and public hearings as required by MGL
- Coordinate with Chairman and members for general preparation prior to meetings
- Monitor both physical and electronic mail as well as voicemail notifying Chairman as appropriate
- Research and tasks as assigned by the board
- Ensure adherence of MGL for all duties
- Other duties as assigned

Minimum Qualifications:
The successful applicant shall have:

- Excellent organization, comprehension, writing, and

minute-taking skills

- Good sense of urgency and be cognizant of deadlines
- Good computer skills including email, internet, Microsoft Office 365 including but not limited to MSWord and MSExcel experience
- Familiarity with open meeting law, MGL, zoning bylaws, and Planning Board activities a plus

This position is offered at an hourly rate of \$16.65 for up to 15 hours per month.

Interested individuals are asked to apply by sending a letter of interest and resume to the

**Personnel Officer, Board of Selectmen,
Town of Brimfield,
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selectmen@brimfieldma.org**

until position is filled. *Reposted on: 9/24/2020*

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Friday’s Child

**Gianna
Age 13**

Photo by Linda Fitzpatrick

Hi! My name is Gianna and I am up for adventures!

Gianna is an outgoing and friendly girl of African American and Caucasian descent. Though she is quiet when she first meets people, she is sweet, friendly and funny with a great sense of humor! Gianna is very interested in gymnastics, running and walking 5K’s, and cheerleading. Gianna’s social worker describes her as a resilient child who is very determined and kind hearted.

Gianna has attended weekend sleep away retreats with her sister through the sibling connections programs on a few occasions and has enjoyed this opportunity. Any opportunity to spend time with her sister is enjoyed and anticipated greatly by Gianna. She is supported by an IEP in school and has developed some very close relationships with her support staff there. She has begun to take great pride in her work and earned honor roll all of the past academic year. Gianna works hard in school and truly appreciates the positive feedback and recognition that she receives as a result.

Legally freed for adoption, Gianna would do best in a single-female-parent or two-female-parent home where she is the youngest or only child. She will need continued contact with her younger sister who is placed separately. Gianna loves animals and learning about how to care for them and would love to have a pet. In a future home, Gianna hopes to have her own room. Her social worker is open to exploring local families that could potentially start off as a visiting resource for her in order to build a relationship prior to place

Who Can Adopt?

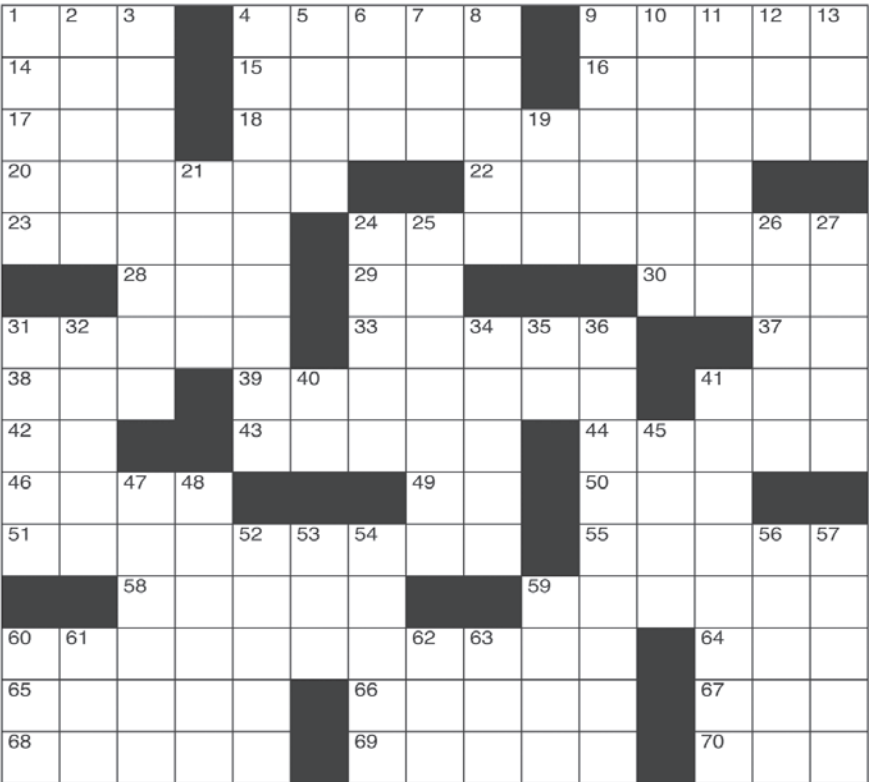
Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? If you’re at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ singles and couples.

The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Part of (abbr.)

4. Persons

9. Moved with a curving trajectory

14. Bitterly regret

15. Cause to feel embarrassed

16. Type of toast

17. Bobby __, NHL champ

18. Analogies

20. Mixes

22. Beloved flowers

23. Clinton special prosecutor

24. Avoids

28. Innermost brain membrane: __ mater

29. Atomic #18

30. Remain as is

31. One who’s been canonized

33. Indian king or prince

37. The Bay State

38. Forms adjectives
39. Give off

41. Partner to flow

42. Biblical Sumerian city

43. Popular clothing material

44. Organism parts

46. Central US Native American people

49. Blood type

50. Wrath

51. Perennial tropical grass

55. Vetches

58. Buffaloes

59. Envelope type

60. Tuberculosis

64. Israeli city __ Aviv

65. Pops

66. Indo-European languages

67. Fiddler crabs

68. Large bank

69. Not fresh

70. Scientist’s device (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. High schoolers’ dances

2. Style of rock music

3. Maryland athlete

4. Softened by soaking

5. Native Aussies

6. Some are on it

7. Clairvoyance

8. Broken piece

9. Wrong

10. Starts over

11. Where to hang clothes

12. One point north of due east

13. Gov’t lawyers

19. Mass of eggs in a shellfish

21. Smile

24. Wrap

25. A citizen of Iran

26. Island off the coast of Tanzania

27. Attempts

31. Beloved “Doctor”
32. Type of turtle

34. Leg (French)

35. Indicates position

36. Self-doubt

40. Of I

41. Retired but allowed to retain title

45. Algerian port

47. African country

48. “Wayward Son” rockers

52. Bring out of sleep

53. Auburn legend Newton

54. Heavy wooden shield in ancient Greece

56. Choose to represent

57. Peace

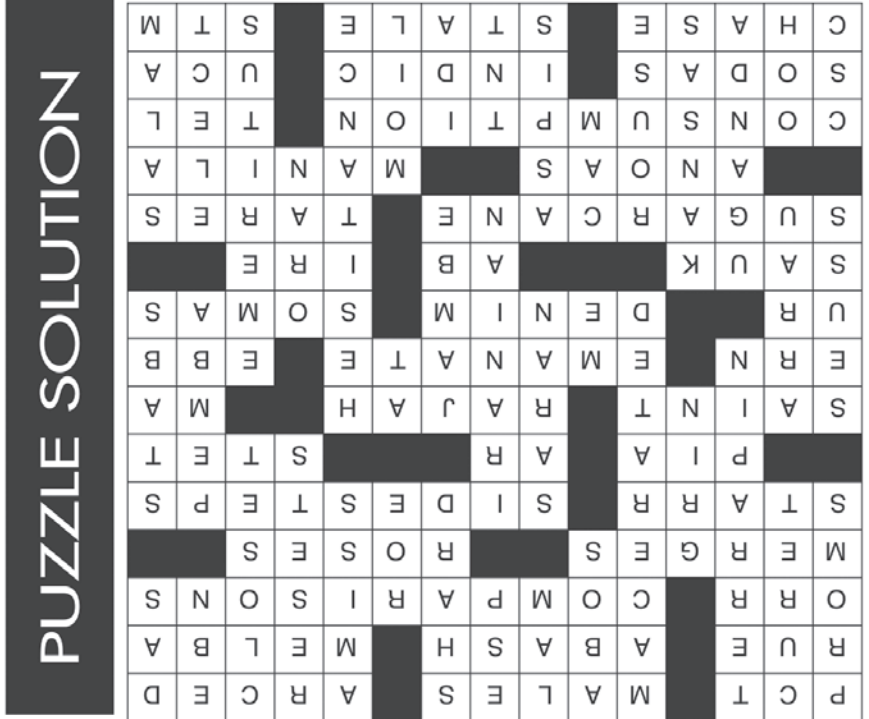
59. Work hard

60. Reciprocal of a sine

61. Express delight

62. Explosive

63. Journalist Tarbell



Harrington, UMass Memorial Health Care approve terms for corporate affiliation

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Members of Harrington HealthCare System and the Board of Trustees of UMass Memorial Health Care announced today that both entities have reached agreement on definitive terms for a corporate affiliation. Harrington HealthCare announced in January 2020 that it was pursuing a corporate affiliation by UMass Memorial.

Harrington formed a 10-member Strategic Executive Committee during 2018 to evaluate long-term options to maintain Harrington as a financially secure, high-quality local health provider. The committee identified as its priorities quality affordable care, health of the community, financial viability, investments in infrastructure and continued employment.

“When we entered into our initial agreement with UMass Memorial in January, we had no idea what the next several months would bring. Our team performed exceptionally well and the community supported us every step of the way, but we could not have provided the outstanding care we did without the partnership and support of the clinical team at UMass Memorial,” said Harrington President and CEO, Ed Moore. “This experience redoubled our confidence that becoming part of the system would offer maximum benefit to our community at a time that requires flexibility, scale, and resources.”

Among the positive benefits offered by the UMass Memorial relationship are:

- Operate Harrington Memorial Hospital (HMH) as an acute care hospital (Southbridge and Webster campuses) for a minimum of five years; this commitment encompasses inpatient and outpatient hospital-based services (medical, surgical, emergency, laboratory, imaging, cancer and behavioral health and substance use services)
- Assistance to ensure investment in facilities, equipment and other infrastructure to support clinical care and the local community
- Integrate Harrington into the Epic electronic medical record system within four years, improving quality and coordination of care
- Maximize access to high quality, affordable care
- Continue Harrington’s role as a positive employer in the local/regional market

The agreement would allow Harrington HealthCare System and Harrington Memorial Hospital to maintain local community boards with reserved powers held by a UMass Memorial subsidiary, which will become the sole member of HHCS. Further, the HHCS Board will have representation on both the UMass Memorial parent and community hospital holding company boards.

“The terms of the definitive agreement help protect access to local, high quality and affordable healthcare for our more than 200,000 patients, their family members and our community,” Moore said. “At a time when the number of independent hospitals has decreased dramatically and healthcare has grown increasingly complex, being part of UMass Memorial’s comprehensive, regional system anchored by an outstanding academic medical center is a clear positive for our community.”

Moreover, this vote to move forward does not impact patient care services currently offered within Harrington’s system. All sites remain open and patients should continue to use Harrington campus

locations and physician offices for routine appointments, emergency care and diagnostic testing, including imaging, labs, cancer care, inpatient admissions, surgical procedures and behavioral health.

Under the agreement, Harrington would become a member hospital within UMass Memorial Health Care, joining UMass Memorial HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital, UMass Memorial Marlborough Hospital and UMass Memorial Medical Center.

“We are pleased with the terms of this definitive agreement and are absolutely ecstatic about the opportunity to formalize our longstanding, excellent relationship with Harrington HealthCare. I want to thank the board of trustees and the administrations of both organizations for their diligence and hard work to ensure we have an agreement that reaffirms the importance of Harrington HealthCare to its patients, employees and community, while integrating this important healthcare provider into the UMass Memorial system,” said Doug Brown, President of UMass Memorial Community Hospitals and Chief Administrative Officer for UMass Memorial Health Care.

With final terms in place, UMass Memorial and Harrington HealthCare will seek state regulatory approval.

“To the Harrington HealthCare communities, I am proud to welcome you to the UMass Memorial family! Your addition immediately strengthens not only our health care system, it further enhances high-quality, patient-centered care in our region. Harrington has always been a tremendous ally and we look forward to an even stronger relationship starting today,” added Eric W. Dickson, MD, president and CEO of UMass Memorial Health Care.

About Harrington HealthCare System

Harrington HealthCare System is a comprehensive regional healthcare system serving more

than 25 communities across south central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. The system includes Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, Harrington HealthCare at Webster and three additional major medical office buildings: Harrington HealthCare at Charlton, Harrington HealthCare at 169, also in Charlton, and Harrington HealthCare at Spencer; Harrington Physician Services, our primary care and multi-specialty physician group; UrgentCare Express at Harrington in Charlton and Oxford; The Cancer Center at Harrington in Southbridge, and the region’s largest Behavioral Health programs for mental health and substance use. For more information, please visit www.harringtonhospital.org.

UMass Memorial Health Care
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“It’s the way Nature knows”

Speaker urges changes to farming to protect climate

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — “We need a more indigenous relationship of honoring Earth,” said psychologist and former Rodale Institute CEO Tim LaSalle. “... We can enhance everybody’s livelihood, including the non-humans on this planet.”

To LaSalle, that major worldview change would anchor a broader way to address what he termed the “sort of desperation” many people have regarding environmental concerns. In brief, he sees a need to balance understanding the psychology of how we got where we are with changing how we get food to address

“two existential crises” – soil fertility loss and climate change.

“We need a whole-systems approach,” he observed. “... We have to go to some of the core elements and find the leverage points to change it.”

He was speaking recently on “Regenerative Agriculture: Cure for an Ailing World.” The basic principle behind regenerative agriculture is that restoring soil fertility and thereby improving crop yields does not require more and better chemicals, but working with the living things that are already there. Instead of fertilizers, it calls for allowing grazing animals to leave manure, letting leaves and clippings stay on the soil, and allowing the native soil fungi, microbes and small organisms to thrive. When that happens, plants are healthier and can fend off pests without pesticides.

Those pests, he later observed, are naturally a minority: “There are thousands of beneficial insects for every one pest.”

LaSalle noted regenerative methods work quickly, rebuilding soils over less than a lifetime that would otherwise take around 1,000 years per inch. In gardens, using a system called a Johnson-Su bioreactor (the plans for which are available at the www.csuchico.edu website and can be built in a basket) can restore soil fungi in around one year if kept fairly warm. After that, it only needs to be applied to the garden once or twice to inoculate the soil. What he termed symbiotic systems of plants, animals and fungi sequester carbon at a rate that’s “a magnitude higher than what current science says is possible.”

“It doesn’t take long to bring life back” to the soil doing such things, he noted. “... It’s the way Nature knows.”

Event host Adam Sacks noted there’s been “a good exponential curve” in public interest in regenerative agricultural practices. While that’s “an extraordinary paradigm shift,” it’s still notably a minority in terms of farming acreage.

To him, climate is not a technological problem, but a “biological problem.” Working with the animals and plants helps biodiversity recover – “all kinds of things start coming back.”

LaSalle agreed, noting that promoting the change requires reaching out to farmers who may be “climate deniers.” Instead of selling it to them that way, he advocated providing evidence the change would save them money (especially on chemicals), give them healthier plants and cleaner water and better profits. Furthermore, he added, recent trials using no or far less fertilizer with regenerative methods grew the same quality of corn at lower cost than chemical-heavy methods.

As an example, he pointed to an Australian regenerative farmer who has been able to double his crop yield while also buying up acreage from nearby failing traditional farmers.

At a large scale, though, getting there requires fixing the fact that, as we’ve become more urbanized, we’ve increasingly lived in “concrete canyons lacking a real relationship with Nature,” he said. Computerized culture, even in farming itself, accelerates that.

In many respects, what we see has been driven by the misuse of psychology by Madison Avenue. He noted advertisers latched onto the ideas of Freud to manipulate the public or their own profit, but some of it can be reversed.

Companies know “to have a business 20 years from now, they have to get a handle on climate change,” he said. A key part of that is turning agriculture back into a “carbon-capture system,” when it now is not, and recognizing that all energy sources are sunlight-based.

That’s a reference to the fact fossil fuels are concentrated plant life of 60 million years ago, solar is current sunlight, wind is the motion of air driven by solar heat, and even nuclear power comes from atoms produced at the cores of ancient stars. Most current systems pump carbon into the atmosphere at some stage of their process, and even hydroponics won’t help reduce CO₂, LaSalle noted. Although hydroponics don’t have the contaminants of standard agriculture, he’s not sure how their crops compare to regenerative ones nutritionally, and would like to see it studied.

When asked about organic farm-

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CHARLTON — 508 International, LLC. and The Robert Paul Group, Inc. announce a pop-up drive in movie theater hosting movies every Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights throughout the month of October. The schedule consists of classic horror films from the golden age of cinema, including “Little

Shop of Horrors,” “Night of the Living Dead,” and many others. Located at 219 Brookfield Rd. in Charlton, 508 International is a premier action sports and entertainment venue offering a state of the art Unilumin HD LED wall to provide the best movie going experience. As a drive-in pop-up,

it will be located in a forest setting with actors lurking around to turn up the haunt factor. While an immersive experience, patrons will have plenty of room around their vehicles to maintain social distance and follow the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Covid-19 protocols. Concessions will be sold on site. “We are excited to provide entertainment for the community in a safe and family friendly environment,” said Amber Howard of 508 International. “We are sure that this safe and socially distanced drive-in experience with classic horror films will get everyone in the Halloween spirit and give people a

chance to get out of the house and have fun!” The venue will have a fully contactless check-in process to ensure the safety of guests and employees. Pre-purchased tickets are required. Tickets are \$35 per vehicle (five passengers or less). Additional passengers are \$5 more per passenger (maximum of 6 passengers per vehicle). Gate opens at 6:30 p.m. and Films begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Schedule is rain or clear night’s sky. To see the full film schedule, purchase tickets, inquire about group sales and sponsorships please visit: www.508.Intl.com/HorrorAtTheDriveIn.

HITCHCOCK

continued from page A1

stresses that in any Animal Adventures exhibit, “interaction with an animal is completely at the discretion of a trained Animal Adventure guide. The safety of students and animals always being the number one concern.” The one hour presentation will be followed by an hour of animal crafts and activities. Or, participants can opt to take a craft home. Cost for the program is \$10 each for one to two admissions and \$5 for each additional ticket. Social distancing and mask protocols will be in effect according to state COVID guidelines. The event will be outside unless it is lower than 60 degrees for the protection of the animals. Admission is limited. Learn more under the events icon at hitchcockacademy.org.

Friday, Oct. 2 is officially World Smile Day® and Hitchcock Academy invites you to stop by anytime between 2 and 6 pm to paint a Kindness Rock.

“The rock can be taken home to share or we will be happy to put them out in the community as a way to spread some kindness” said Skowyra. “It’s one of my favorite days of the year and it brings joy knowing you’ve helped someone else smile.”

This is a free event and participants will receive a World Smile Day Ambassador certificate, poster and sticker.

For those wishing to build a family tree Hitchcock Academy offers a two hour online class with professional genealogist Dave Robison. This class will help amateur family sleuths learn the rules of the internet road, the value of subscription sites and how to take advantage of all the information on free sites. Robison, the founder of Old Bones Genealogy of New England, and a research assistant at the Museum of Springfield History, delves into the topic of using social media for family research. While COVID limited

access to some of the usual avenues available to amateur genealogists, it concurrently opened the door to discovering how a personal computer could become the vehicle for advanced genealogical study. Robison’s class also touches on the need to begin any genealogical quest with personal interviews of the eldest family members as a starting point for any research. Robison, who is a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the Massachusetts Genealogical Council will present his online class on Oct. 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Hitchcock Academy adapted one of its most popular classes: Let’s Cake Decorate with Sue Gaulin, to accommodate state COVID guidelines for social distancing and limited group size. Through December Gaulin will offer monthly classes on Sundays featuring seasonally themed cakes. Gaulin brings all the items students need to learn the fine art of cake decorating including tools and aprons. At the end of each session every participant goes home with a boxed goodie of their own creation.

Skowyra also reminds people that the weather is still pleasant enough to enable Hitchcock to add an outdoor yoga class as a complement to the ZOOM class hosted by Sharon Palmer. Both of these classes as well as martial arts, music lessons, and dog training can be accessed through the Hitchcock website. October 31 is the final day of this year’s Farmer’s Market in Brimfield. It is the last chance to get seasonal vegetables, maple products, masks, and baked goods all in one convenient area. the Farmer’s Market takes place on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Hitchcock Academy parking lot in downtown Brimfield. For ongoing updates and other programs check out the Facebook page or Hitchcockacademy.org.

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ARBOR DAY

continued from page A1

but I am pleased we were able to hold a ceremony and plant some trees” This year’s ceremonial Arbor Day tree was a White Oak planted in the parking lot island of the recently completed trail head parking lot at

10 Old Sturbridge Village Rd. The tree was “adopted” by the Sturbridge Trail Committee, Assisting in the tree plantings were crew members from Landscape Evolution of Holland. For more information on Sturbridge’s “adopt a tree” program contact Tree Warden Tony Crane at tcrane@sturbridge.gov.

OSV

continued from page A1

storage and cooking, shelling corn and beans, and putting the gardens to bed for winter. It’s a sight to see with the whole Village busy at work! Farm animals, demonstrations led by artisan crafters, and horse-drawn wagon rides will also be offered during Autumn Harvest Weekend.

NEW this year, the Village is hosting a Virtual Home Gardener’s Exhibit to help guests celebrate the fall harvest from near and far. Those who enter the exhibit can present what they’ve been growing in their gardens throughout the year, showcased during a digital display of entries available online during the weekend of Oct. 17-18. Expert horticulturalists will be judging the entries, choosing the best in several categories including Best in Young Gardeners (ages 5-12), Best in Adult Gardeners (ages 13 and up), Best Heirloom, and Best Overall. Those interested in entering the virtual exhibit can sign up online at: <https://www.osv.org/event/virtual-home-gardeners-exhibit-2020/>.

The Village is open from 9:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. during Apple Outings

and Oxen, Fields, and Farmers weekends, and 9:30a.m. to 4:00p.m. during Autumn Harvest Weekend. Themed fall weekends and activities are included with standard daytime admission into the Village. The Village will also be hosting a series of Halloween-themed events, to be announced in the coming weeks.

Visitors and members are required to purchase or reserve their tickets in advance, using OSV’s new online reservation system, found at <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>. Available tickets will be released each week on Wednesday, with three blocks of time per day for arrival: 10-11:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., or 1-2:30 p.m. Once in the Village, visitors are welcome to stay until the museum closes.

Guests are required to follow state guidelines when visiting OSV and must wear a mask when entering into the Village, interacting with staff or other guests, or when physical distancing is not possible. Masks may be removed when outside and physically distant from staff or other visitors. A full list of safety procedures and measures can be found online at: <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>.

FARMING

continued from page A6

ing, he observed those soils “can be as dead or nearly as dead” as conventional farms because of tillage, which breaks up the soil communities.

“Who needs to profit from this? Earth needs to profit from what we do.” LaSalle asked rhetorically, add-

ing our present culture “has been destructive of what produces life on this planet.”

LaSalle’s talk was the most recent of WGBH’s “Life Saves the Planet” series presented by Biodiversity for a Living Climate (www.bio4climate.org).

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EDITORIAL

Leave the signs where they stand

As the days wind down to the Presidential election, we're seeing more division than ever. Fortunately, in smaller areas such as ours, it's largely business as usual, and people on both sides can still have friendly conversations, in person that is.

The online banter and sign stealing is another story, however. We must note that sign stealing is a crime that comes with a fine of \$1,000. Stealing signs will in no way sway someone to change their vote.

Beware the division that social media can sew and intended to sew all along. If you read something, don't automatically take it as fact. There's been a veer from reality due to social media trolls, with the sole purpose of dividing the country. We are better than that, and intelligent enough to see through it. We've said it before, if you see something you disagree with online, you don't need to jump on it and chime in. Think for yourself and trust your own ability to weed out what's true and what's not. Private conversations are also best. Further, commenting on a stranger's post is absolutely useless, don't even waste your time.

It's not OK to hate another person due to their political views. If someone disagrees on policy with you, that's ok. Maybe you don't want to go to Sunday brunch with that person, but there's no need to hate. It's especially hard when you see some individuals who think that acting mean and condescending is a sign of toughness. It's not. It just means they are simply, mean and condescending.

What's interesting is that the people you see on television shouting rude comments and carrying guns as a way to intimidate, probably don't like it when someone yells back. The second amendment was not intended to be used to intimidate fellow Americans into thinking the same way that we do. We think it's safe to say that those same individuals, prefer when people in their own lives are kind to them. So, what gives? The hate is exhausting.

While this may be easier said than done, if you see a sign that you don't agree with, at least try to appreciate the fact that in America we have the freedom to think differently from one another, and to make it known. For example, if you drive by a sign of a person you would not vote for, just shrug your shoulders and remember the freedom that those different signs represent. A freedom that must be protected.

LETTERS

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OPINION

VIEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM STURBRIDGE, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND AND WALES

The positive solution is American optimism

I awoke this morning, thinking, "When pessimists pick up a brick, they throw it, but when optimists pick up the same brick, they build something positive and useful."

There is much in the news as I pen this column about Judge Amy Comey Barrett and her spiritual beliefs. She is an enthusiastic participant in her Roman Catholic faith and that seems to offend some and frighten others. How is it we've come back to this point?

Criticize her for her rulings on the bench. Her political ideology is certainly fair game and open for debate. Roe v Wade, the Affordable Care Act ... there are many areas of her public, professional and ideological life that can be debated, but I believe there is one area that is off limits and that's her family. And when it comes to her faith, politicians should tread very lightly. Unless her faith is leading her to break the law or have some life view that is so extreme as to be completely out of the American mainstream, which she does not ... her faith should also be off limits.

How did we get here?

The ideological differences are stretching us to limits that are in danger of tearing apart the very fabric of our nation. I believe our national character is in danger of being scarred forever, and in the process, altering our very way of life. The rational majority of people across the nation must stand up and reject the violence in the streets and political vitriol that is pulling us apart.

Optimistic people do not react this way to ideological differences.

No nation in history has shared, nurtured, and prospered, with such powerful optimism as the United States of America. When people talk about "American Exceptionalism," I believe we are talking about our optimistic spirit and positive belief in our future. I don't believe we are smarter or better than other nations, but I am certain that it has always been our optimism in our future that has propelled us into world leadership. I believe the ultimate optimism is our history of faith that has created the foundation of our constitution and is woven tightly into the fabric of our nation.

Scripture speaks of Thomas and how his doubts brought a risen Jesus to his side to proclaim, "Blessed are those who believe but have not seen."

Judge Amy Coney Barrett, by all accounts, lives the life of a faithful believer and again, it seems to offend some and threaten others. Within twenty-four hours, her faith has been dragged through the mud and her family criticized. I read an opinion commentator who said it was wrong for her to adopt two children with different skin



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

pigmentation from Haiti, as it caused them some type of psychological damage. Another criticized her for not aborting a child with down-syndrome. Are there no limits? I'll not comment on her political leanings, but I'll fervently defend with deep admiration, this judge, and her family for not only practicing but living out their faith.

You can be an optimist and not like the President's choice. You can be a positive person yet disagree with this nominee's rulings from the bench, but optimistic people do not try to damage those with whom they disagree. Optimistic people enter debates believing something better will come because of the discussion. Positive people believe that others with differences of opinion can still work together for the betterment of our nation and world. An optimist will not throw bricks, damage other people's property and physically harm others over ideological differences. When an optimist has a brick in hand, they build something positive and beautiful.

I am confident that rational people on both sides of the political debate can find common ground and return our nation from the brink. I believe in American Optimism. But let me assure you that believing in optimism is only half the battle. We must rise together and demand an end to the vitriol that's tearing us apart. Both extreme sides will stand and point fingers at the other side, but I assure you, it is coming from the extremes on both sides. Those in the extremes will never admit fault, it's going to take those of us in the middle who believe this nation and our values are worth saving, to rise up without a brick in our hand and say enough is enough.

I believe it will be "American Optimism" that will save us. The silent majority of us in the middle must demand more and better from our elected officials. Write your representatives in all branches of government and on both sides of the aisle and tell them enough is enough. Right now, they are only hearing from the extreme pessimists on both sides, and as such, it is the vocal and negative minority that will drive us over the cliff unless we stop them.

I believe in "American Optimism." I believe in the collective "us."

What will you do today with your brick?

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryWMoore721 and at www.garyw-moore.com.

DIY Ideas that Capture Autumn's Brilliance

Few simple pleasures compare to the colorful show of a New England autumn. Why not capture that brilliance with projects that will recall crisp, fall days of yore? Read on for inspiration and instruction to spotlight the blazing color that comes but once a year.

Botanical Prints

Botanical prints are timeless and vintage examples command premium prices. Here in New England, we are surrounded by nature's foliage, which have natural dyes and just happen to make the most appealing botanical wall hangings. Here's how:

Materials: Pliable, colorful autumn leaves, the darker the better; parchment or rag paper (resume paper that is at least 25% rag content also works); absorbent paper towels, flat end hammer.

Directions: Clean off any dirt or debris from the leaf. Place one sheet of parchment or rag paper on a flat, clean and sturdy surface such as a workshop table or cutting board. Place leaf flat down on surface. Cover with a few layers of paper towels. Using even force, tap the entire area of the leaf (to gauge the area, outline the leaf with pen on the paper towel to use as a guide). This step helps to anchor the leaf to the paper. To release the leaf's natural dyes, go over the leaf surface again, hammering every inch of the leaf. When done, do the same working in the opposite direction. Don't be afraid to take a peek every once in a while to check your progress. When done, peel the leaf from the paper to expose the print!

To preserve the color of the print,



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

spray with an acrylic protectant. Mat and frame individual prints, or create a collage of different leaves and colors!

Note: Brighter colored leaves such as Japanese Maples create the most vivid colors.

Autumn Luminaries

The most colorful and textural fall leaves are literally "in the spotlight" with this homemade luminary project. Use either a real or flameless candle to create a variety of different mood lighting.

Materials: Dried and pressed leaves (drying between weighted newspaper or paper towel pages results in leaves that are dry, yet pliable; Mod Podge (available at craft stores); canning jar.

Note: Lighter leaves allow for more illumination.

Instructions: Using a paintbrush coat the entire outside of the canning jar generously with Mod Podge. Do not coat the bottom of the jar of the rim area. While jar is still wet, place leaves onto the jar and press in place. Brush over the leaves with another coat of Mod Podge.

Note: Keep in mind spacing leaves apart allows more light to shine through. Overlapping leaves collage style creates a denser jar and dimmer light.

Once leaves are placed, dab or stipple the Mod Podge in the clear spaces. This little extra effort will pay off when the light shines through and shows off the texture rather than brush strokes.

Allow to dry overnight, and then apply one last coat of Mod Podge. As a final touch, spray the outside surface of the

Turn To **TRAINOR** page **A9**

Lessons from experienced investors



FINANCIAL
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Those who have lived a long time have done a lot, seen a lot – and can teach us a lot. And that's certainly true when it comes to investing.

Consider some of the lessons you might learn from experienced investors:

Regulate your emotions. In the investment world, there's

always something coming at us that could sound scary: political flash-points, economic news, and even those once-in-a-generation occurrences, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. But older people may take these events in stride; in fact, baby boomers and members of the Silent Generation (born between 1925 and 1945) are coping better emotionally with the impacts of COVID-19 than younger age cohorts, according to the 2020 Edward Jones/ Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. And by keeping control of your emotions, you may be less likely to make moves such as selling quality investments with good fundamentals just because their prices have fallen in the midst of an overall market decline.

Learn from experience. By definition, the older we get, the more experiences we will have. And most people do indeed learn from experience. Investors, too, benefit from having seen and done things before. Did you chase a "hot" stock only to have found it cooled off before you bought it? Did you buy too many of the same type of investments, only to see your portfolio take a bigger hit during a downturn than it would have if you had diversified? In the investment arena, as in most walks of life, patterns emerge, and once you learn to recognize them, you can learn from past mistakes.

Know yourself. When we reach a certain age, most of us know ourselves pretty well. But you don't have to wait decades to gain this knowledge – at least not when it comes to investing. For example, you should quickly gain a good sense of your ability to withstand risk. How? Just consider how you react when the market declines sharply. If you find yourself losing sleep over your losses – even if they're just on paper – you might be taking on too much risk for your own comfort level. Conversely, if market downturns don't bother you as much as lack of growth in your portfolio, you might be investing too conservatively for your own risk tolerance.

Take a longer-term perspective. When we're young, we sometimes are more inclined to desire instant gratification – we want results now. Translated into the investment world, this could mean we want to see big returns in a short period. However, despite the popular mythology, it's quite hard to turn enormous profits on investments overnight – or even over weeks or months. But as the years pass, we learn the value of thinking long-term – how investments we made years ago, and have added to steadily, are now yielding results that can help build the resources we need to reach our objectives.

Don't go it alone. Some of us, when we're young, have a tendency to think we have all the answers and don't need much help in our endeavors. But age gives us the wisdom to recognize that, although we may have acquired much knowledge over the years, we can still use some help in specialized areas, such as creating a long-term investment strategy.

These suggestions are appropriate for anyone – and they can help you on your journey toward your goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edward-jones.com.



A good time to get outside



Two nice Tautog taken aboard FishNet Charters this past Saturday.



This could be you! Courtesy of Fat Nancy's Bait & Tackle Shop.

The cool weather that we enjoyed last week is a sign of things to come before winter sets in. It is why I love New England so much. If you do not like the weather today, just wait a few weeks and sometimes, a few days, and it will be changing. The hot, muggy weather that we experienced a few weeks ago was hard on the elderly, but now that the fall weather is here, everyone can enjoy the outdoors. Hunting and fishing is being enjoyed by many more residents of Mass. since the pandemic started. Hunting and fishing equipment was flying off of the shelves since spring, and restocking of the equipment has not happened.

Guns and ammunition are almost impossible to purchase, with ammunition being the hardest to get. Many target shooters are not practice shooting

at ranges because of the shortage. It took a pandemic for some residents to find the outdoors, and their new activities.

People are also doing the basic things like spending more time with their family, and enjoying meals together. Many now realize what they have been missing all of their life! Having someone else raise their kids, is now being done by their parents. Being taught to respect others, as well as law enforcement, is something my parents taught us at a very young age.

Upstate New York's famous Salmon River exploded with action last week, according to Fat Nancy's Tackle shop



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH TRUE

in Pulaski. Rainbow trout, Big Brown trout, Steelhead, Coho, and King salmon are all in the river at the same time. Sure wish I was there! Low water conditions still hampered the migration of fish, but this week rain was expected to hopefully increase the water in the river, making fishing even better, if that is possible.

The long hot summer did have its upside, as far as mosquitos and ticks are concerned. Sitting in the back yard early evenings was a lot more enjoyable without the constant humming of a swarm of mosquitos ready to suck your blood dry, for their evening meal. I have not found

a single tick on my dogs this year, and they have spent some time in the woods. They still need their monthly dose of medications to avoid heart worm and Lyme disease.

Captain Mel True of "Fish Net Charters" has been doing very well catching Tautog and Seabass after spending some time tied up to the dock waiting for the seas to calm down after all of the tropical depressions passed. The fall fishing is heating up on all fronts and should provide anglers with some great fishing before winter sets in. This week's second picture shows a couple of Capt. Mel's clients with a couple of real nice Tautog taken last weekend.

By the time you read this column, Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife should be stocking trout in their annual spots that receive trout every year. If the predicted rain happens, they should start their fall trout stocking program this week.

Lake Quinsigamond in Shrewsbury received a large stocking of 12 inch Northern Pike recently by MFW. They sure do like to put all of their eggs in one basket.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Pet of the Week

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Name: Sasha
Breed: German Shepherd/Mix
Sex: Female
Size: Large
Age: 4 years, 5 mo.



Hi there, my name is Sasha! I am a sweet shepherd mix looking for my new forever home. I am not a fan of other dogs and I think cats are squeak-toys, so I need a home where I am the only pet. I am older, but I do still need some training, and would benefit from having an experienced owner that can teach me everything I need to know. I have plenty of energy too, and would love to be your hiking and adventure buddy. I would do best in a home with adults or older dog savvy kids, as small children who don't understand how to interact with me may make me uneasy. If you think we'd be a good match, please come in and say hello!

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Create new garden beds this fall



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS



Melinda Myers

Renting a power edger will make creating a large garden bed easier and less labor intensive.

least three business days in advance. It's free and as easy as calling 811 or filing an online request. They will contact the appropriate companies who will mark the location of their underground utilities in your work area. This reduces the danger and inconvenience of accidentally knocking out power, cable or other utilities while you create a beautiful landscape.

Use a rope or hose to outline the area. Avoid tight corners or creating narrow grass borders that will be difficult to mow or require hand trimming.

Once satisfied with the layout, take a soil test and decide how to kill the existing lawn and weeds as needed. A soil test will tell you how much and what type of fertilizer you will

need for the plants you are growing. Testing now means you will have the information in hand when it is time to fertilize in spring.

Next edge the bed. Use a shovel to dig a V-shaped trench around the border of the garden. Or rent or borrow a power edger to make larger jobs easier.

Once the edging is complete, remove healthy grass with a sod cutter and use it to fill bare spots in the lawn. Or create a planting berm or simply add it to the compost pile. Just place it green side down and wait for it to decompose.

Another method for clearing the grass is to cover the area with cardboard topped with several inches

Turn To GARDENING page A10

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TRAINOR

continued from page 8

jar with an acrylic finish. Again, allow to dry completely. To use, place a contained tea light candle or flameless candle inside the jar.

Foliage Garlands

Garlands strung across a mantle or doorways are popular autumn décor, but why buy faux foliage when you have the real thing right outside your door?

Note: If you are not using preserved leaves, this garland only gets better with age for as they dry, they curl up and take on a new look!

Materials: Colorful fall leaves (crimson and yellow Maple leaves are best); Mod Podge (available at craft stores); plastic straws; twine; hot glue or tape

Instructions: Choose flat, clean leaves. Dry by pressing until all moisture is removed (press between weighted newspaper and paper towels). Carefully brush Mod Podge on each leaf. Note: Do one side at a time and allow to fully dry. Cut straws in half inch length. Attach a straw piece to back of each leaf with hot glue or strong tape. String each leaf on twine and hang!

**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renown restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

To advertise in The Local Service Provider Directory
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Old Sturbridge Village partners with bankHometown for new initiative

STURBRIDGE — Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) with the support of bankHometown based in Oxford, Massachusetts, in response to urgent needs brought on by the pandemic, has created a "One Room School House" learning pod for children in the museum community. The innovative program serves children of Old Sturbridge Village and Old Sturbridge Academy employees impacted by disruptions to in-person school learning. There is no cost for staff children to attend the School House. The program takes place in the Village's modern, well-equipped Museum Education building and operates Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., following the academic year schedule. COVID-19 safety protocols mirror the rigorous standards followed by Old Sturbridge Academy and approved by the Sturbridge Board of Health for in-school learning.

The program addresses the following priorities:

GARDENING

continued from page 9
of organic mulch and wait for the grass and cardboard to decompose. You can push back the mulch and cut through the cardboard to plant immediately. Or wait to begin planting next spring after the grass and cardboard have broken down completely.

For quicker results and control of perennial weeds, try a total vegetation killer. These products kill the top and roots of the good and bad plants they touch. Read and follow label directions carefully. Start your soil preparation after the required waiting period has passed.

The next step, an important one, is soil improvement. It is easier to repair and improve the soil before you plant. Plus, time spent now yields years of good results. Add two to four inches of organic matter like aged manure, peat moss or leaf compost to the top 8 to 12 inches of soil. These materials improve the drainage in heavy clay soil and increase the water holding ability in fast draining sandy or rocky soils.

Check the labeling on the bag when purchasing these products. Make sure the product you select is USDA and STA certified to ensure quality. USDA BioPreferred certified

ties:

1. It saves jobs:
2. Old Sturbridge Village and Old Sturbridge Academy staff with children are able to continue working regardless of the status of in-person or remote learning imposed by schools.
3. Museum educators who ordinarily are busy leading school field trips, instead staff the One Room School House. (With the loss of field trips, museum education jobs were in jeopardy.)
4. It benefits children:
5. Academy teachers are able to remain in their classrooms for the full school year, providing continuity for their predominantly high-need students.
6. Staff children in Kindergarten to Grade 9 who have been learning remotely, now receive critical socialization, outdoor physical activity, assistance with school work, arts education, and engagement in exciting museum activities.

products are derived from plants and other renewal products, providing an alternative to petroleum-based goods. Look for United States Composting Council's STA certified compost that is a renewable, consistent, high quality product made from locally available organic material.

Once you mix in the organic matter, rake the garden level and smooth. Your garden is ready to plant. Fill it with spring flowering bulbs, perennials, trees, and shrubs this fall. Or cover it with shredded leaves or other organic mulch to suppress weeds and prevent soil erosion. Use the winter to plan the garden so you will be ready to plant once spring arrives.

In either case, your efforts this fall reduce your workload next spring and shorten the time to a more beautiful landscape.

Gardening expert Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. Myers is the host of The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.

7. It models responsiveness and innovation

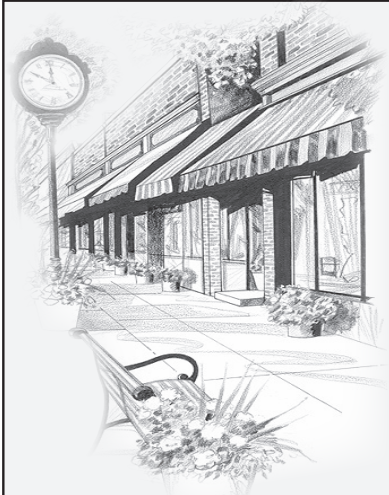
8. The One-Room School House serves as a model to other cultural and educational institutions for how to creatively respond to community needs.

Old Sturbridge Village is a living history museum depicting life in the 1830s, so the concept of a one-room school house ties in with the Village's programming. An early New England school house consisted of various age groups, with older children often helping the younger children. Similarly, the model the Village has put into place today, has students working in two or three mixed-age groups of approximately ten students in each group. In the mornings, children will work independently on their own district-led Virtual Learning, using their own electronic devices.

"The younger students spend up to three hours daily on school work, while older students may spend up to five. In the afternoons, they enjoy museum-based Experiential Learning Activities, working in multi-age groups in the Museum Education building and throughout the Old Sturbridge Village campus to complete projects and activities," said Emily Dunnack, Director of Museum Education. Dunnack went on to say, "Varied activities include daily physical activity, art and nature programs, and access to the Village's historic buildings, interpreters and natural areas. Some children learn to stitch a quilt, others work with village interpreters to harvest and preserve produce for winter or to plant a garden in the spring. Younger children are paired with older students, their 'Reading Buddies,' to help increase literacy and interpersonal skills. Every day we offer different opportunities for learning and playing."

"bankHometown is thrilled to partner with Old Sturbridge Village on the One Room School House, because we believe strongly in the value of education and in the Old Sturbridge Village experience to help young people in our communities unlock their full potential," said bankHometown President and CEO Robert J. Morton. "We are impressed with the innovative approach to this project, which will help preserve jobs, provide a high quality, in-person educational experience for participating students, and keep Old Sturbridge Village a relevant and sustainable organization."

"Old Sturbridge Village is proud to offer this innovative program without cost to our museum and Academy families. The impacts will be far reaching and long lasting for both the children and the adults' involved," said Jim Donahue, President and CEO. "We as an organization are proud of that fact that we were able to find a solution to what many families are struggling with due to no fault of their own."



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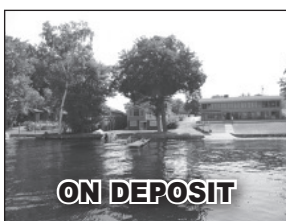
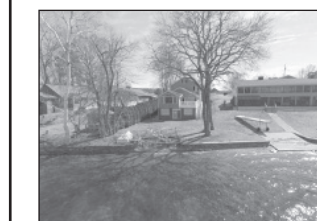
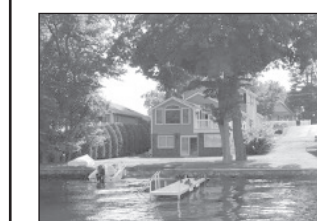


WEBSTER LAKE – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks – Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace! Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! **\$539,900.00**

HOIDEN – 315 Holden St! 6 Rm Ranch! Meticulously Maintained! 2 Spacious Bdrms, Full Tiled Bath & 1 Car Garage! Move In Ready! Granite Oak Cabinet Kit w/Tiled Back Splash & JennAir Stove! Frplcd Liv Rm! Fam Rm! Gleaming Hrdwds! Perfect Yard w/Major Landscaping this Year! New Roof 2019! **\$344,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT – 3 Lakeview Rd! Middle Pond – Reid Smith Cove! Ideal Summer or Yr Round 6 Rm Ranch! Western Expo – Beautiful Sunsets! Near All the Excitement that "Indian Ranch" provides, Dining, Concerts & the Indian Princess! An Arched Bridge to Your Own Private Island, a Great Place to Enjoy the Lake from! Open Flr Plan! Being Sold Fully Furnished! Recent Kit w/Quartz Counters, Breakfast Bar, SS Appliances, Tile Flr & Recessed Lighting! Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flrs, 6x14 Lake Facing Picture Window & Stone Frplcd! 3 Remodeled Bdrms w/Ceiling Fans & Hrdwd Flrs! Master w/Bath & Laundry Closet! Screen Porch w/Lake Views! Dock! Carport! Shed! Still Time for this Summer! **\$579,900.00**

GRAFTON – 168 Brigham Hill Rd! 8 Rm Garrison Colonial set on 1.3 Acres! 4 Comfortable Bdrms & 2 Full Bthrms! Freshly Painted, Floors Recently Refinished! Spacious Kit w/Lunch Counter! SS Appliances w/Gas Cook-Top! Grand Dining Rm for Family Gatherings! 19x26 Living Rm w/Pellet Stove! Master Bdrm w/Dble Closets & Hot Tub! Bright & Airy Mudroom out to the 2 Car Garage! Furnace & Hot Water Tank 5 Years Young! Radon tested at 2.5! Newer Roof on Garage & Breezeway! New Well Water Tank Installed! Title V in-hand! Property Abuts Grafton Land Trust – Hiking Trails Right Out Your Back Door! Convenient to Routes 90, 9 & 20! Immediate Occupancy! **\$449,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/ Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$949,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Nice! .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds! 297' Waterfront! \$4 Million Spent, Nothing Spared! 17 Rms! 5 Water View Bdrms, 5.5 Bathrms! Brazilian Cherry Hrdwd Flrs, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator, Ground Flr to Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bthrm w/Steam Shower off Exercise Rm! Billiard Rm! Media Rm! Center Isl Granite Kit w/Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Frig, Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Flr Plan! Din Area, Fam Rm w/Entertainment Center w/Wet Bar! Formal Din Rm, Frplcd Liv Rm & Atrium! Library w/Deck! Waterfront Master Suite w/Office, Bdrm w/Triple Glass Dr to Private Deck w/Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Bathrm w/Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool, Dble Vanity, Separate Commode/Bidet/Sink Area! 16 Z's of Updated Geothermal Heat/A/C! Recessed Lights & Fire Sprinklers Through Out! 3 Car Garage! Generator! Slate Roof! Reward Yourself! **\$2,499,900.00**



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Featured New Listings!



WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD

1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! SOO MUCH MORE!
\$499,900.



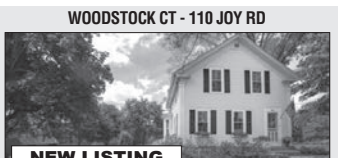
WEBSTER - 39 OLD DOUGLAS RD

First time offered! Lovingly cared for ranch situated on 1 acre! Recent improvements: windows, siding, gutters & new composite rear deck. Cabinet packed kitchen to the cedar closets. 3 full baths! Master Bath with laundry! Lower Level - Potential for an in-law or extra personal space for the Kiddos!!!! don't miss out on this one!!!
\$338,000.



DANIELSON CT - 52 TAFT STREET

Spacious Ranch, 1520+/- Sq Ft 8 room 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Baths. Hardwood Floors throughout. Fireplace family room. FHW/OIL Heat. - New Furnace, Windows, Also, recent Asphalt Driveway! Over sized Garage! 1/2 Acre Lot. Dead end road. Close to I-395!
\$255,500.



WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD

Quisential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplaced Dining, library/Music room. Master Bedroom, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath.
\$425,000.



WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD

3 ACRE COMMERCIAL SITE! APPROX. 550 FT ROAD FRONTAGE ON STATE HIGHWAY RTE 193 A/K/A THOMPSON ROAD. STRATEGICALLY NESTLED BETWEEN TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) ON-RAMPS & TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) OFF-RAMPS! PROPERTY DIRECTLY ABUTS I-395! 48'x80' CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING, 7,680 SF TOTAL! FULL LOWER LEVEL USE & DRIVE IN GARAGE DOOR! HIGH TRAFFIC - HIGH EXPOSURE! WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED?
\$600,000.

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **NEW PRICE \$115,000.**
Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res.1 **\$49,000.**
Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**
Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000+/- Sq Ft Lot! Potential for a 2 Family! **SORRY SOLD! \$70,000.**
Dudley - Packard Dr. 2 Lots! Very Private! off Ridge Dr. **ON DEPOSIT! \$56,000.**
Oxford - 4 Leicester St. - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE

One level living with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level. Cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central air. Stainless appliances w/large double oven. Over-sized 30 x 14 deck, quiet cul-de-sac!
New Price \$314,900.



WESTFORD - 41 WHISPERING PINES

Summer Village with Private Beach, 2 Heated Pools, Fitness Center, Putting Green Tennis Basketball, Bocce, Rest/Lounge, Pavilion, all on site. 4 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths. Loft, and so much more. Great Value!
assisted sale \$225,000.



SUTTON - 470 BOSTON ROAD

Updated Home that is on a 1 Acre, Professionally Landscaped Grounds. 5 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 3 bedroom septic will be installed. Baseboard oil heat. Recent exterior paint and newer Windows, Wood Flooring. Fireplace. Sunroom. 2 car garage!
assisted sale \$379,900.



WEBSTER - 56 CUSHING ROAD

FIRST TIME OFFERED! Meticulously Cared for & Loved ~ 4 Bedroom / 2 Bath, 1963 Cape! Natural GAS Heat.Town Services! Boiler - Just like New! Corner Lot. Garage! 2nd Flr - 2 Lg Bdrms! Bathroom, Hardwood Floors, This House is Ready for a New Family, is it YOU?? Call today, Don't Delay!
\$272,900.



WEBSTER - 548 SCHOOL ST

Aesthetically pleasing 4-5 BR CAPE!! 1,800 SF Cape! 8 rooms, 4 lg rooms & bath on 1st flr, eat-in kitchen, living room, family room, office/possible 1st flr in-law bedroom. 2nd flr - 4 lg bedrooms & bath. 2 car garage.
\$199,900.



WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE

SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind, Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180'+/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplace living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining, formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplace lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! **Remember, Timing Is Everything \$1,075,000.**



THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND - BECOLA ROAD

NEW LISTING

Thompson - New 5+ Acre waterfront land listing on Little Pond! Also known as School House Pond. Private, pastoral setting, open field surrounded by tree line. Plan of land and septic design in hand!
\$179,900



LAKE SHIRLEY - 647 RESERVOIR RD

SORRY, SOLD!
Laketfront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Laketfront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chf kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st Flr bedroom suite w/shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors, oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! **assisted sale \$1,040,000.**

REAL ESTATE

Quinebaug Masonic Lodge thriving after 162 years

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, Sept. 26, a small group of family, lodge members and friends gathered at Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge to celebrate the installation of officers for the 2021 Masonic year. COVID-19 social distancing and masks are mandatory. Wow, 162 years and Quinebaug Masonic Lodge is still around and thriving. Chartered in 1859 Quinebaug Lodge has been in this community for an unbelievable 162 years thanks to the strong bond of Freemasonry and family-oriented men. Let me tell you a little bit of history about how Quinebaug Masonic Lodge was started.

The Quinebaug Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was first organized on the second floor of Salem Town's house in Charlton Massachusetts. The lodge was granted a charter by Paul Revere, and on March 14, 1796 formed into Fayette Lodge. This lodge served members from our surrounding community of Dudley, Charlton and Sturbridge and parts that would form into Southbridge.

On Dec. 7, 1859 S.A. Drake, a prominent businessman, along with fellow Masons were giving special dispensation to organize a new lodge in Southbridge. The new lodge was named Quinebaug Lodge and at the time had 40 members,



Courtesy

Back row from left to right: Wor. Mike Sgariglia, Bro. William Belanger, Wor. Chris Kanz, Bro. Eric Langevin, Bro. Anthony Scarnici, Bro. Benjamin Marinelli, Bro. William Proper. Front row left to right. Special Quests District Deputy Grand Marshal Anselme Maxime, District Deputy Grand Master RW. James J. Gonyea, Master of Quinebaug lodge Wor. Master Larry Burbridge, Junior Grand Warden RW. Chris St. Cyr from the Grand Masonic Lodge in Boston and Grand Pursuivant Bro. Bob St.Cyr of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston.

most of them prominent citizens from Southbridge. The lodge would hold its first official meeting a week later with Chester A. Dresser as the lodges first Worshipfull Master and S.A. Drake as treasurer. On

March 14, 1905, rooms at the Chester A. Dresser house which stood at the time at the corner of Main and Central street in Southbridge, were dedicated to the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge. Afterwards the building

would be known as the Masonic Building, and the lodge observed its 75th anniversary in this building on Dec. 7, 1934. The Masonic building was sold back in 1960 and the lodge would hold its meetings in the basement of the Central Baptist Church, until a new permanent place was found. Quinebaug Masonic Lodge eventually found its new home on October 13, 1969 on Ashland Avenue and held its first meeting and is thriving to this day.

For history buffs Jacob Edward Library has all kinds of information of the history of Southbridge and Freemasonry which had a huge part in this community. It was the big names in businesses, such as Ammidown, Child, Wells, Dresser that brought not only some of the country's largest business to Southbridge but also Freemasonry, and would be the fathers of Quinebaug Lodge of Freemasons and its traditions. What we do know is that after 162 years the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge of Freemasons have continued to make good men better.

Our members are immensely proud of the deep tradition the lodge continues to hold true, we are enormously proud of the next generation of officers to hold the honorable positions and to continue these long-lasting traditions going into the future.

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55+ COMMUNITY

Dudley: Welcome to Legacy Landings future 55+ community with 22 units. Sewer, water and gas available per town. This site is a fantastic location with Nichols College and Nichols Golf Course within walking distance. Close proximity to town beach and walking trails. Easy access to highways. **61 Airport Rd - Call Diane or Jo-Ann for details.**

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SOLD
 17 Duval Rd - \$ 344,900

Worcester: Burncoat Area 3
 Bedroom, 2 fireplaces, First floor family room, 2 car garage, Pristine condition
12 Elenanor Dr - \$458,300

Webster First donates \$10,000 toward cancer research at UMass

WORCESTER — 2020 marks the fourth consecutive year that Webster First Federal Credit Union proudly sponsored the annual UMass Cancer

Walk & Run. Every year, this event raises funds to support cancer research, clinical trials, and patient care for the UMass Cancer Center located in Worcester, where Webster First has its headquarters.

Speaking about the value and importance of supporting this cause, President/CEO Michael Lussier said, “The reality is that

most of us have been personally affected by cancer whether that be our family, friends, colleagues, or even ourselves. The Webster First team wanted to show our support for the UMass Cancer Walk because we saw how it brought the community together to raise awareness and it connected with our team on an emotional level. It is also meaningful to

know that all funds raised through this event directly support cancer care, research, and clinical trials.”

The UMass Cancer Walk & Run was held Sunday, September 13th, 2020. This year, due to the uncertainties of the coronavirus pandemic, the event was held virtually. The virtual event featured special guest appearances from The Voice’s Toneisha Harris and Worcester native Ricky Duran.

Emma Earls matriculates into Hamilton College

CLINTON, N.Y. — Emma Earls, of Sturbridge recently matriculated as a first-year student at Hamilton College.

Earls, a graduate of Deerfield Academy, was selected from a pool of 7,443 applicants to the college, and joins a class of 470.

Originally founded in 1793 as the Hamilton-Oneida Academy, Hamilton College offers an open curriculum that gives students the freedom to shape their own liberal arts education within a research-and writing-intensive framework. Hamilton enrolls 1,850 students from 49 states and 49 countries. Additional information about the college can be found at www.hamilton.edu.

DUDLEY — Nichols College has welcomed the newest members of our herd.

Abigail Zahr, of Fiskdale enrolled at Nichols College as a member of the class of 2024.

For more information about Nichols College, please visit nichols.edu.

About Nichols College

Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based

Abigail Zahr of Fiskdale enrolls at Nichols College

approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow’s leaders. Nichols also offers master’s degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today’s professionals.

About Webster First

Webster First Federal Credit Union serves the financial needs of Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk, and Worcester Counties. Founded in 1928, Webster First is one of the largest credit unions in Massachusetts with over \$1B in assets and serving over 77,000 members.



LEGALS

TOWN OF CHARLTON INVITATION FOR BIDS WINTER WASHED SAND

Sealed bids appropriately marked “Winter Sand Bid” will be received, publicly opened and read aloud in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Bid specifications must be obtained from the office of the Board of Selectmen’s Office prior to the submission of the bid.

The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to waive any minor informality in the bids and reject any or all bids and to make awards in a man-

ner deemed to be in the best interest of the Town. September 25, 2020 October 2, 2020

Legal Notice Town of Charlton Charlton Highway Department Employment Opportunity Private Snow & Ice Removal Contractors

Now seeking private snow and ice removal service contractors for the winter storm season of 2020-2021. Specifications can be picked up at the Highway Department, 100 Flint Road, Charlton, MA 01507 starting September 18, 2020 before 3:00 p.m. EOE/AA.

The Response Deadline – October 9, 2020 by 3:00 p.m. September 25, 2020 October 2, 2020

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 40A §10 & §11, the **Wales Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on October 6th, 2020 at the Wales Town Offices at 6:00 PM**, on the application of Wilfred & Donna Anair Jr. of 69 Stafford Rd, for a special permit in terms of the Town of Wales Zoning By-law Sec. 4.2.2. The Town of Wales Zoning By-Law Sec.

4.2.4.1 states “The proposed extension, alteration, or change must not increase the non-conformity (if any) with open space, yard, height, and off-street parking requirements.” Specifically, the applicant wishes to sell existing garage to neighbors which would result in changing plot plans. Any person interested and wishing to be heard on this application should refer to the town website (www.townofwales.net) under zoning board agenda for the above date to participate virtually. If you have any questions or concerns please email planning@townofwales.net September 25, 2020 October 2, 2020

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**TOWN OF SPENCER
UTILITIES AND FACILITIES SUPERINTENDENT**
The Town of Spencer is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Utilities and Facilities Superintendent. Under the general direction of the Town Administrator, this position supervises the work of highway field operations, construction, maintenance, and engineering of roads and related infrastructure, vehicles, buildings and grounds, traffic sign and markings maintenance, operation of the transfer station, and special projects as assigned. Under the direction of Water Commissioners, this position also provides day-to-day operational management of the water system. Successful experience with grant management and public procurement required. Bachelor’s degree in civil engineering or related field with 3-5 years of experience required. Salary range \$85,000 - \$110,000 DOQ.
Visit <https://www.spencerma.gov/home/pages/employment-opportunities> for application details. Submit letter and resume to Town Administrator, Town of Spencer, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562, or email tgregory@spencerma.gov. AA/EOE

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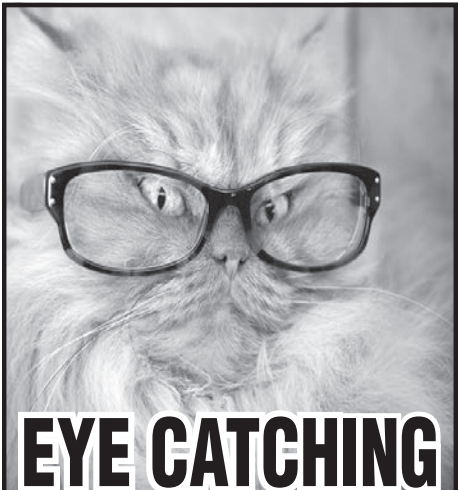
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Design pro Andre Mills illustrates graphics' power to persuade

Crews battle fire in Sturbridge

WORCESTER — Professional graphic designer, illustrator and caricaturist Andre K. Mills will illustrate graphics' power to persuade in The Communicators Club's Oct. 6 virtual event.

Sometimes, words aren't enough. An often-overlooked component in raising awareness — and the personality profile — of a business and brand is through memorable graphic design. Mills will explain the power of graphics in a Zoom presentation set for noon to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6. The \$10 program fee includes networking opportunities and the chance for those attending to promote their business before the main discussion begins. A question-and-answer session will follow his talk.

Mills, a Jamaica native who majored in art at the University of Lowell (now UMass Lowell), plans to address the following areas of interest:

- Defining graphic design.
- Detailing how it's best used to convey ideas and concepts in the enterprise.
- Describing the impact strong visual communication can have on people, businesses and the world-at-large.

Mills' Lowell-based digital services include logo, website and animation creation; he also draws caricatures and portraits, and commissioned work that includes T-shirt and book illustrations.

To register for the program, go to <https://conta.cc/32F2dsr>. For more information about The Communicators Club, visit <https://communicatorsclub.org/>.

About The Communicator's Club (TCC)

Just as communications and the



Courtesy

Andre Mills

roles of diverse jobs within communications have morphed and expanded since the 1950s, TCC has grown and changed. The Communicators Club today is a blend of the Society of Professional Communicators (founded in 1951 as the Worcester County Editors Council) and the former AdClub of Greater Worcester. Membership reflects twenty-first-century professional communications—advertisers, writers, editors, multimedia design and production specialists, marketers, and public relations experts—all work toward an integrated marketing approach that's crucial to success in today's marketplace. The Communicators Club's monthly programs provide professional development from industry experts, networking and other opportunities in a friendly, informal atmosphere, all online this year.

Overlook earns top marks from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

CHARLTON — In 2007, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) introduced a program to rate the quality of care and services provided by nursing homes throughout the country.

A nursing home's overall quality rating, as recorded on the CMS Nursing Home Compare website, is based on 3 critical ratings:

- 1) Health care inspections
- 2) Quality of resident care measures
- 3) Staffing

In its newest set of ratings published in August, the esteemed Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued the Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center a maximum five out of five stars—for its overall rating, placing it among the top 10 percent of best nursing homes in the country.

In addition to its overall rating of five stars, Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center earned five-star ratings for both its staffing and quality of resident care measures.

The five-star rating is a seal of excellence from CMS, underscoring the high quality of health care and service standards delivered within The Overlook Continuing Care Retirement Community. As well, the rating serves as a valuable tool for consumers when seeking the best of the best in nursing home care.

Tameryn Campbell, President & CEO of Masonic Health System of Massachusetts and the first-ever female leader of the senior living organization, noted, "We are honored to achieve this notable accomplishment from CMS. It lets us know we are fulfilling our mission and vision of providing superior person-centered care—and providing it with passion."

"I am especially proud of the five-star ratings for staffing and quality measures," Campbell added. "Our team members deserve that distinction, as they work incredibly hard—especially with the COVID-19 challenges confronting our industry, nation and world."

Campbell, who joined The Overlook in 2014, has spearheaded a transformation of the organization on all levels, leading to its financial stability and desirability among seniors in the region. The turnaround also earned her recognition from the Worcester Business Journal—on an elite list of 2019 outstanding women in business.

The new CMS ratings include data for more than 15,000 senior care providers participating in Medicare, Medicaid or both. Overlook Masonic Health Center is one of 102 providers in Massachusetts to receive a five-star overall rating.

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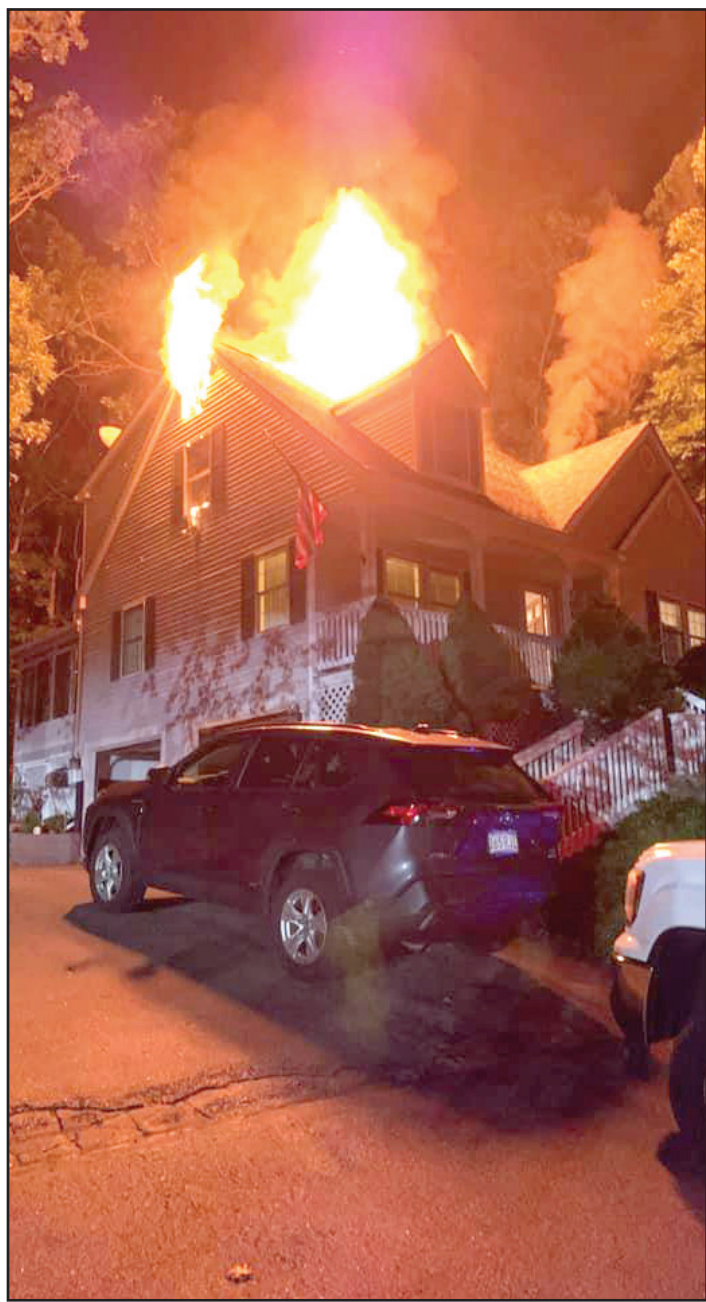
STURBRIDGE — Several area fire departments responded to a blaze on Shepard Road last month.

The Sept. 20 fire was first reported at approximately 11:30 p.m., with initial calls indicating an attic fire. Upon arrival, fire crews quickly upgraded the incident to a third alarm and requested mutual aid units from Southbridge, Brimfield, Holland, Charlton, Spencer, Brookfield, East Brookfield, and Auburn.

Residents escaped the house with minor injuries, and were transported to the hospital. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Courtesy

(Right) A fire in Sturbridge last month drew responders from several area towns.



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